

**Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee
Report
December 1, 2017**

**NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION**



**Public Transportation Division
Consolidation and Coordination of Public Transportation
Systems (ConCPT)**

GENERAL GUIDANCE

Purpose

The Consolidation and Coordination of Public Transportation Systems (ConCPT) Program is a North Carolina Department of Transportation funding program established in G.S. 136-44.20(e) by Section 34.18A of S.L. 2017-57. The stated legislative goals for these funds are to consolidate or coordinate with other public transportation systems to maximize resources, gain efficiencies, and increase access to public transportation. These funds are available for two purposes: 1) to encourage transit systems to consolidate into single-agencies to reduce the number of grantees for which the Department has oversight, and 2) to encourage coordination between providers for longer-distance trips spanning multiple transit system service areas.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants must be sub-recipients of Federal Transit Administration Section 5307 and/or 5311 funds through NCDOT. These funds are to be used for new consolidation and coordination projects. For this application, new is defined as beginning on or after July 1, 2017.

Funding Amounts

For Fiscal Year 2018, the amount of available money is \$1.5 million which will be divided among consolidation and coordination projects. The initial goal is to have \$750,000 for consolidation projects and \$750,000 for coordination projects. The funding levels may shift based on the strength of the applications.

As legislated, no more than \$200,000 of ConCPT funds may be allocated annually to a single public transportation system. Consolidation and coordination projects are eligible for a maximum of \$200,000 per public transportation system involved in the project. See the individual project section for more detail about funding levels per project.

The consolidation and coordination funds are expected to recur, at least in part until the projects are stable and self-funded or funding from other sources are able to sustain the project. However, future funding is subject to availability.

Consolidation Projects

The purpose of this portion of the ConCPT funding is to reduce the number of NCDOT/Public Transportation Division grantees while expanding the level of services offered in our communities. Funding will be provided for full-consolidations where two or more public transportation grantees merge into a single grantee.

Coordination Projects

The purpose of this portion of the ConCPT funding is to enhance coordination between NCDOT/Public Transportation Division grantees. Funding will be provided for coordination activities where three or more public transportation grantees agree to establish formal relationships to maximize resources, gain efficiencies, and improve access to public transportation.

The primary goal of this ConCPT funding is to establish formal relationships between the transit systems for long-distance routes. The routes should include at least three transit systems and must operate every weekday using a published schedule. The routes should be designed to provide access to major medical destinations and nearby regional and intercity transportation facilities such as multimodal centers and intercity bus stops. Service to other regional destinations such as community colleges should also be considered.

ACTIVITIES

The following activities have been completed since the announcement of these funds:

1. A proposal and plan were submitted for approval;
2. An application was developed and introduction webinars held;
3. Project coaching was provided; and
4. Plans were received on October 20, 2017 and evaluated.

The following projects will go to the NC Board of Transportation at the December 1, 2017 meeting.

Consolidation

Wilson City/Wilson County are actively working on a full consolidation effort. \$350,000

Coordination

Carteret County is leading an effort to build a “Downeast Express” through partnering with Duplin County, Goldsboro-Wayne and Johnston County to run a service 5 days per week from Morehead City to the Triangle Area. This startup funding will be for the period January – June 2018. Additional partners are expected in the service. \$75,000

Clay County is coordinating with Macon and Swain counties to expand service and make daily trips each weekday to Asheville in support of their communities’ needs. This startup funding will be for the period January – June 2018. \$20,000

NEXT STEPS

The next steps are:

- NCDOT is a partner in long distance travel and planning for additional coordination projects is ongoing,
- NCDOT is involved in consolidation of transit systems with potential consolidation underway in Hyde / Tyrrell counties, and Onslow County / City of Jacksonville.